

freedom

Anarchist Weekly 4d

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Kith and Smith

DURING THE PAST week the tone of the left wing press has been coming round to asking for a firmer line to be taken with the 'rebel' Rhodesian Government. From the pacifists to the *New Statesman*, the cry has gone up to send in troops. Probably this is because it is already beginning to appear that sanctions are not going to work.

It is probably true that if the British Government did send in troops to arrest Mr. Smith and Co., there would be little in the way of violence, but what happens afterwards? Is an occupation army to remain in Rhodesia for ever? Is there to be an African Government in Salisbury and if so what kind of government? Would the use of United Nations troops be a good thing or a bad (they certainly aren't doing much good in the Congo). Are things to go back to the way they were before, which is very little, if at all better for the majority of the Rhodesian people than things at present?

WILL THE SANCTIONS WORK?

Everyone who wants the sanctions to work thinks that they must work quickly or not at all. In order to achieve this the Rhodesian 'rebels' must be cut off from their friends outside and this can't be done without troops patrolling the borders of Rhodesia. Let us not forget that there are only 200,000 people in Rhodesia who are going to need supplies. The Africans are not going to be considered in this matter. Now 200,000 people is not very many. It is to be precise twice the number of people who see the cup final every year. I do not think that it will be very difficult to get enough stuff over the South African border to keep that little lot going. It appears that if the Rhodesian whites are at all determined they can hold out till the fuss dies down at least. The British information on the subject of sanctions is a little strange to say the least. The important thing is will the Union of South Africa help Smith? First we were told that they would, then that they wouldn't, then again they would and then again. . . . So it is obvious that a lot of the news we are getting is mere wishful thinking. After all it must be obvious to anyone who thinks at all

losing South Africa could hardly afford to let that happen. Already there are signs that the embargo is going to be ignored and Smith boasts that he has plans for beating the sanctions. Hence the panic that drives even the pacifists to cry out for the use of force.

Unless the African majority rises in revolt or undertakes a widespread terrorist campaign it is unlikely that Her Majesty's Government will send in the 'Tommies', and when they send them in, they will be sent in to put down the revolt 'to restore order', in other words to kill Africans. Otherwise I imagine, the sanctions will slowly fizzle out and the British and Rhodesian Governments will come to terms in a way that will save the faces of both sides. Of course the Africans will still be grafting for starvation wages but then they can afford to wait for another 100 years, and anyway they won't have any choice, will they?

'THE BRITISH WAY OF LIFE'

The (white) Rhodesians are our kith and kin. Are they? What do we really have in common with them? They have no problems about how to get a living (someone else gets it for them). They rule over their vast preserves that are slightly bigger than our back gardens. Their womenfolk have a problem but it's not the same as ours, it is one of boredom. They don't have to work you see. They have others to do that. They don't have to fight for a better standard of living like we do, because their standard of living is better. They may have a great deal in common with the Marquis of Salisbury (their champion) who has always been a great friend of the working classes, but they are not even remotely like us. Some of them were once, but not any more. 'Life's better over the darkies.' The servants are a problem, but it's one that can be solved with a few policemen armed with truncheons. After all you can't allow thing to slide completely, can you?

What must be understood by every ordinary working man, is that they stand for 'the British way of life' because that is the way of life of Cecil Rhodes and Lord Salisbury or Sir Walter Raleigh and Francis Drake. A way of life that can

Aden: An Vietnam

IN THIS CAPITALIST world governments rule by real or phoney crises abroad so that they can appeal to patriotic sentiments for stability at home. Wilson has his crises in Malaysia, Rhodesia or Aden. In all these places Britain has a strong financial and territorial interest. Therefore Wilson can say to his subjects in this country: 'From these places we get rubber, oil, tobacco which ensure our standard of living. There are military atrocities and murders (vide *Peace News*: British soldier holding aloft a severed head) but without subjugating others our standard of living would crash disastrously.' He may not say this in public, but this is how his cabinet and how the establishment talk (or do not need to talk as this is understood). Therefore Wilson's crisis is in the territories where this country's material advantage lies. Similarly, this can be proved with all the imperialist countries (Russia and China included). Each country has its own set of crises which unites the people at home for material advantages accruing from the subjugation of others.

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PUBLIC OPINION

What the British public feels about this issue is difficult to say, but the Gallup poll shows that Wilson has gained ground over the way he has handled the situation so the public must want things to remain the same. Wilson has done nothing constructive and this it appears is what the public wants. He has gone to the United Nations to ask them to help but he does not want their opinions, because he knows that many would not agree with him about the use of force, or rather lack of it.

The African leaders have been threatening but the Rhodesian Army could probably whip them all if it came to a fight, and even if it looked like

they will be sent in to put down the revolt 'to restore order', in other words to kill Africans. Otherwise I imagine, the sanctions will slowly fizzle out and the British and Rhodesian Governments will come to terms in a way that will save the faces of both sides. Of course the Africans will still be grafting for starvation wages but then they can afford to wait for another 100 years, and anyway they won't have any choice, will they?

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What must be understood by every ordinary working man, is that they stand for 'the British way of life' because that is the way of life of Cecil Rhodes and Lord Salisbury or Sir Walter Raleigh and Francis Drake. A way of life that can only be maintained by a class of semi-slaves, who have no right other than to serve, to do as they are told and to be 'done'. They used to have them here but the serfs got out of hand and things have made it difficult to carry on the old traditions that made this country what it is today. HATED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Yes, Mr. Smith does represent the 'British way of life' which has been to rob and loot every corner of the world, and then to have the bloody sauce to call it bringing civilisation.

THE AFRICAN WAY OF LIFE?

After these people have been robbed of their best land, they are expected to observe the rule of law. The British law, and woe betide them if they don't. But what of their way of life that they have evolved over the centuries? Oh! Did they have one? Well we didn't notice, and anyway it couldn't be as good as ours because we won. If this isn't nazism, what the bloody hell is? Of course they are to serve (not to practise) the British way of life and if they do we can point to them as an example of what happens when you give them self-rule. Not for nothing are the British known as a nation of hypocrites.

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It is significant that in all the essential industries which, when added together in the event of a wholesale strike, we couldn't do without, are State-run, so the men who are of the same breed and ilk as those who give orders to beat an African to death, or make a human torch out of a Vietnamese villager, won't have the least concern or pang of conscience about passing the buck however many errors are made, since liquidation will never occur. The State is there as constant protector, and as the Government assumes, quite rightly, that people must like you enough to believe all the lies and other wretched dross at election time, when they will put up with the necessities of life increasing in price far beyond their true worth, not through

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WHAT IS THE LAW?

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defeated at the time of Suez. But ever since then British governments have kept stability at home by a constant crisis abroad. Is there a North Borneo lobby? Does anybody protest about Aden? Will Rhodesia blow up in Wilson's face? Until now the British Government has not been challenged at all on its own policy. Neither has this challenge been offered to the Dutch, Russian, and Portuguese governments by their *own people*. This does not mean that 'peace-lovers' in all these countries do not abhor the atrocities committed by their *own* military, but they prefer to be silent for fear of losing economic advantages.

To concentrate on this country where we live, isn't it suspicious that there is no protest whatsoever about, say, Aden by the protest industry (left-wing MPs, etc.). Nobody worries and the government is safe.

To Wilson, the irrational (in this context) campaign about Vietnam is all that he has to contend with. For Britain there is no advantage in the Vietnam war. There is no return in rubber, oil or tobacco. Of the twenty or so nations that took part in the international demonstrations against the war in Vietnam only the US and France have any financial stakes in the war, for the rest of the countries, the Vietnam war is the *wrong crisis*.

For Egypt it is Israel, for India it is Pakistan, for Britain, the liquid gold through Aden, the rubber from Malaysia, tobacco from Rhodesia. *Not Vietnam*.

But the war in Vietnam has been dragging on for twenty years. It has taken the peace movement twenty years to build up an international campaign. It is an irrational campaign (in this context). But as such it is causing a headache for established governments everywhere. Says Wilson: 'Why do they worry *me* about Vietnam? I refused to send soldiers.' The same in Canada, Latin America, Sweden, Holland, France and the rest of the countries. A chorus of whining voices: 'Now look here Johnson, can't you manage your crisis better? Our soldiers kill hundreds a week and get no protest from our countrymen, why should we be nettled because of *your* ineptitude?'

In other words by this campaign we are on our way to stop the war in Vietnam. It will happen because all these demonstrations are *anti-government* demonstrations.

If we want peace however (with no enforced shifting of crisis) that would only come about if the Vietnamese people had the strength and wisdom to break the rifles of all combatants, for the butchers not to give them meat, the bakers not to bake them bread, the women not to sleep with the soldiers, and for every US, Vietcong, Russian and Chinese soldier to desert and to say to hell with the politicians.

On that day, and not a day before, I'll say anarchy (peace) on this earth is possible. R.

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As far as light and heat is concerned, this little game has been going on for years; assurances that everything will be all right the next time, and the time after that, but if and when London gets a moderate snowfall early next year, it will disrupt communications because the depressing bastards who are the cause of this misery are part and parcel of an oligarchy (with twin offshoots in America and Russia, though in all honesty their communications can't be as bad as ours).

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ANARCHY ON RAILWAYS

There was a welcome show of solidarity on Tuesday evening, the second day of the chaos. Parts of London had been thrown into blackness by power cuts and although the driver of the Watford-bound Midland Region train was unlucky enough to have no option on whether to run the train as the power had been cut, one cannot blame the long-suffering passengers for boarding a train at Queen's Park (though the train was to be taken out of service at that point), and refusing to leave the train when asked to.

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So many women work and run a home these days, and on returning home it's simple enough to plug in an electric fire; a chilly room is decidedly uninviting and even if a bitter wind hadn't been howling and groaning for the best part of four days, the general dampness and murky skies made jokes about escaping on the next boat for Australia seem only too real. It's only understandable that we should use a double dose of heat in an effort to prevent the cold seeping over us and into us. Both the gas and electricity industries had plenty of money to throw around on advertising while neglecting the necessities; for anybody who fell for the advertising twaddle it must have seemed all a hollow sham when they couldn't use the appliance 'to make all your dreams come true' and instead had to resort to groping

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In all there were 1,000 people involved according to newspaper reports and although every manjack had a perfect excuse to stand his ground, since it was London Transport's duty to get these people home, the LT, to their ever-lasting discredit, called in the police to do their dirty work for them and, as it appears the British public have almost a pathological respect for a blue uniform, they were turned out on to the platform again without any trouble.

But at least the above story is heartening in some ways: for once people were not behaving like sheep while London Transport played their own private games at their expense—in fact everybody was prepared to back up everybody else and if it hadn't have been for the police intervention this may have been a landmark with the travelling public winning their dispute and London Transport being made to feel what it's like when the boot is on the other foot.

It's a pity the arrival of the police scared the wits out of these people, who up till then had acted with sense and firmness, no doubt spurred on by anger; if everybody had been prepared to take the 'blame' when police questioning began the police couldn't have arrested everybody, could they? And the ball would then have been very much in London Transport's court. When Homo Sapiens arrived at his abode he probably found little warmth, light and an undercooked meal, plus a worried wife, but at least hundreds of people put Anarchy on the Railways into practice and perhaps made many thousands more think about it too.

Continued on page 3

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Cuddon's Cosmopolitan Review, Nov., No. 6 1/6; Limbo, Vol. 2, No. 5 2/-; Candis, (Harlow CND) Oct. 6d. (at least).

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Vol 12 1962: The People in the Street

THE AMERICANS are losing their Coca-Cola merchant grip. Before, they used to be straightforward in their propaganda. 'Drink Coca-Cola' was as direct as 'Democracy is the right to eat Wifey's home-made apple-pie'. Hollywood clearly showed what was 'good' and what was 'evil'. Crime does not pay, the villain always dies with his boots on (like heroic Marines in the battlefields of Vietnam). But then came the Second World War and things changed. The monstrous propaganda machinery the State had so laboriously built up through the years had a spanner thrown at it: the atomic bomb. It did not stop the machine, it just made it go haywire. The anarchistic principles of the American Declaration of Independence, are now a cancer in the American brain causing more confusion still. Perhaps they should not have left those ideals on paper alone.

But they were left, for words making promises somehow do not tie up with vested interests and the ambition and whims of authority. But as long as authority knows that people will believe

SANE or Insane

ON THE 27th of November a march on Washington will take place. This march, protesting American policy in Vietnam, has been organized by several leading peace groups in the United States: particularly SANE (National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy). The groups responsible for organizing and leading the march on Washington are composed of members who oppose war and violence in Vietnam and elsewhere, and whose opposition is based primarily upon moral concepts.

Our movement is faced with the grave problem of rallying popular support. Official government sources, as well as the press, television and other public communications media, consistently present the American people with open lies or veiled lies or half-truths about our government's foreign policy, particularly as regards our position in Vietnam. SANE and the other peace groups are aware that we who oppose this position are in the minority, and that we must use all means at our disposal to appeal to the general public. They feel, therefore, that the peace movement should discourage those individuals and groups from participating, who openly take a radical political stand on world affairs; because their participation could be a source of poor publicity, and the entire peace movement might be gravely weakened by the label 'communist' or 'anarchist'. SANE and the other peace groups responsible for organizing the November 27th march on Washington, have therefore discouraged from taking part in it the liberal and militant political organizations (such as the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs, the Young Socialist Alliance, Progressive Labor, etc.). They have asked such groups as these not to participate, or at least, not to carry signs identifying themselves. They wish to make it clear that this march is not 'Communist-inspired'.

Although we encourage and support all efforts to put an end to American

Vietniks vs. Sick

words, authority will comply with the wordage or verbiage. Authority has the money to do so anyway, whether those from whom they take the money, the people, like it or not. It also stops real public opinion to get to the public, knowing each individual in the world does not have the money to publish his own paper. Demonstrations are the only way out.

It could be argued that there are many kinds of demonstrators, though, to simplify matters, they can be divided into honest and dishonest, or horror-struck before an approaching calamity and lost and bewildered waifs looking for some warmth.

American authority does not see it that way. Their propaganda organs, caught in their haywired machinery, clinging tenaciously to words like law,

order, freedom, and so on, trip in an attempt they call the 'peace' demonstration. Not because they believe in reality which must begin by classifying weirdies, children, dope-addicts, adolescence crisis, representative of the serve to point the Time and Newsweek

Newsweek is in Reader's Digest. In its issue of October 4 pages to the de- out that there are spoken young men strators, but it takes most of them are washed'. It pro- cent of the popul- the war, but does unfavourable 34 nearly 70,000,0 100,000 (official march. It is eas- ages, for the Negro population mere 20,000,000.

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Most of us agree that American foreign policy must be understood in terms beyond ideological anti-communism—that our involvement in Vietnam is not an aberration, but rather a logical consequence of American attitudes and policies. Some people feel that they can best explain the situation according to radical political and economic theories. Whether or not we agree with this position, it should be expressed! It is an opinion which is all-too-unfamiliar to American thinking, and therefore is constantly misunderstood and consistently feared. We—the opponents of present US foreign policy—must not threaten ourselves with the same closed-mindedness and naïveté which characterizes so many of our government officials. We feel that Americans must face political and economic theories which are contrary to those they accept, unquestioningly, at the present time; that they must be forced to consider and criticize and re-evaluate their society.

For these reasons, the Vietnam Day Committee is not formally supporting the march on Washington; although its members represent a very broad political spectrum and are perfectly free, as individuals, to join the march if they so choose.

You are welcome to send messages of support and solidarity to the organization which is responsible for this march:

National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy
17 East 45th Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
U.S.A.

(Prepared by the International Com-

Fascism, Gaetano Salvemini 4/-; The Pub and the People, 'Mass Observation' 7/6; Armies and the Art of Revolution, K. C. Chorley 15/-; The Paris Commune, V. I. Lenin 2/6; Kipps, H. G. Wells 2/6; The Theoretical System of Karl Marx, Louis B. Boudin 4/-; Darwinism and Race Progress, J. B. Haycraft 5/-; The Brigand, Giuseppe Berto 3/-; In Darkest Germany (1947), Victor Gollancz 3/6; Economic Consequences of the Peace (damaged), J. M. Keynes (1920) 3/-.

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(Prepared by the International Committee, Vietnam Day Committee, 2407 Fulton Street, Berkeley, California, USA.)

Anarchist Federation of Britain

Co-ordinating Secretary: Frank Hirshfield, 4 Albert St., London, N.W.1.

London Anarchist Group 1&2

'Lamb and Flag', Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2. (Leicester Square tube) 7.45 p.m. All welcome. Sundays.

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Propagating the Faith

DEC 5 Brian Richardson
King Hill Hostel

DEC 12 Jeremy Westall
Rhodesia—The Future

Public Meetings every Sunday Hyde Park
3 p.m. Correspondence to: D. Bell, 10
Gilbert Place, W.C.1.

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3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa's, 21 Rum-bold Rd., S.W.6 (off King's Rd.), 8 p.m.

Last Thursday in month: At George Hayes', 174 McLeod Road, S.E.2.

2nd Friday at Brian Leslie's, 242 Ames-bury Avenue, S.W.2 (Streatham Hill, Nr. Station).

3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald & Irene Rooum's, 148a Fellows Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Details of meetings from Peter Neville, 12 South Grove, Erdington, B'ham, 23.

BORDER FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. Correspondence: John Stark, 39 Scott Street, Galashiels.

BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Ian Vine, 3 Freeland Place, Hotwells, Bristol, 8.

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Crowley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.

DUNDEE GROUP contacts: (1) Bob and Una Turnbull, 44 Peddie Street, Dundee. Meetings at 44 Peddie Street, Dundee, every Saturday at 3 p.m. (2) Sheila Whittaker, 64 Polepark Road, Dundee.

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MANCHESTER Contact: Mike Road, Droylsde Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Chapel Street, M week-ends at th Square, Manches

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MERSEYSIDE Enquiries: Barba Road, Devonsh Cheshire.

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ORPINGTON A Knockholt, Nr. six weeks at Phone: Knockh Maureen Richar

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READING A Meets first Tues Meeting House (London Street) 8 Phillip Lund, 160

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order, freedom, right, wrong, Christian and so on, trip themselves up constantly in an attempt to explain away what they call the 'phenomenon' of the Vietnam demonstrations in October last. Not because they are newsworthy but because they have been frightening, a reality which must be hidden. So they begin by classifying: a minority, cranks, weirdies, children out for excitement, dope-addicts, bewildered youth, adolescence crisis. Two magazines, fairly representative of American authority, serve to point their fear and confusion: *Time* and *Newsweek*.

Newsweek is written in the style of the *Reader's Digest*, the American Bible. In its issue of October 22, it dedicates 4 pages to the demonstrators. It points out that there are 'well-dressed and well spoken young men' among the demonstrators, but it takes care to remind that most of them are 'self-consciously unwashed'. It proudly says that 66 per cent of the population are in favour of the war, but does not mention that the unfavourable 34 per cent represent nearly 70,000,000 people, of which 100,000 (official figures) went to the march. It is easy to speak of percentages, for the figures are small. The Negro population is 11 per cent, a mere 20,000,000.

Time magazine in its October 29 issue is more intellectual and not so homely as *Newsweek*. It takes a sociological angle to solve the mystery of the demonstrators to appease the qualms of the businessmen it caters for. These things always happen in moments of crisis, the article says with a sad smile. Even though it says that 80 per cent of the American people approve of their Government's policy in Vietnam, they remember that the 20 per cent left over represent over 40,000,000, so they guardedly say: 'even among the 20 per cent who do not approve, the active, indeed militant, protester is in the minuscule minority'. But, like *Newsweek*, it also says the demonstrators are hypocrites, and confused about the 'national will'.

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It is with this concept of madness in mind that the word Vietnik has been invented. The suffix 'nik' comes in handy now as a derogatory appendix. So, those who burnt their draft cards are called draftniks. It is the branding and setting apart in a special corral, like the beatnik was. It is a subtle way of alienating people against people. The original beatnik was a phenomenon that produced fear; the Vietnik and draftnik has to be a phenomenon that can be

anything because they are disturbing to people too scared to show their true emotions. The disturbance arises from what is 'respectable' and what is not. The well dressed and the 'self-consciously unwashed'. It is time demonstrators change their tactics. Instead of disturbing City gentlemen with their long hair and beards, they should make City gentlemen feel the only identity which is possible to stop wars: we are all in the same boat. In other words, instead of trying to show rebellion with long hair and beards, one must show rebellion by wearing a bowler hat and pin-striped trousers. The American demonstrators can wear Bermuda shorts, lurid shirts and a camera round their necks.

Words alienate and if there is a Vietnik, there can also be a Citynik. Chubbynik Wilson, Jellynik Brown and all the rest of the Labourniks, are Yankee-niks. The niks can go on ad infinitum. A representative of authority is a sicknik. But that defined, it would not solve the major problem: how can demonstrators reach the 'respectable' people, who, regrettably, are the ones who have a major say in a nation's destiny? The only answer is: be like them, or better said, dress and look like them. Thus, 500 young men dressed like City gentlemen, carrying anti-war placards stuck on their umbrellas, cannot be accused of being dirty and cranks. And, five hundred females, pretty ones of course, dressed in bikinis, with a sash saying 'Miss Killed Vietnam', would cause real anti-war horror, unlike the usual jeans and duffle coats favoured by female demonstrators.

NOBODADDY.

'Convolvulus' About to Flower

LATEST NEWS about the case is that the next Blackburn Quarter Sessions are due to commence on November 30 and that the case should be within a week from that date. They usually hear guiltily' pleas-first.

Leeds University Union have just passed the following resolution:—

'Union Committee regrets that the provisions of the 1959 Obscene Publications Act and other statutes made it necessary for the Blackburn Police to initiate proceedings against the publishers of the anthology *The Golden Convolvulus* and regards the provisions as able to result in unwarranted censorship. The committee calls upon the Home Secretary to act accordingly'.

The Executive Committee of the NCCL . . . 'Although members of the Committee were not convinced that there was literary merit in *The Golden Convolvulus*, nevertheless the EC did not consider that this was the type of publication which should be censored, and I was therefore instructed to offer you our good wishes and support.' Martin Ennals, General Secretary.

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Anarchist Federation of Britain

Secretary: Frank Hirshfield, 4 Albert St., London, N.W.1.

Anarchist Group 1&2

Rose Street, off Garrick
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All welcome.

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LONDON MEETINGS

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S.W.2 (Streatham Hill,

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Room's, 148a Fellows
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MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylsden. Meetings alternate Tuesdays, 8 p.m. at the Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Manchester and socially: week-ends at the Rising Sun, Albert Square, Manchester.

ILFORD LIBERTARIANS. Regular meetings and direct action contact 212 Vicarage Road, Leyton, E.10.

MERSEYSIDE FEDERATION. Enquiries: Barbara Renshaw, 4 Clarence Road, Devonshire Park, Birkenhead, Cheshire.

NORTH-WEST ESSEX. Meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at Robert Bartrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near Saffron Waldron.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact H. G. Mellor, Merton College, Oxford.

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Meets first Tuesday of month at Friends' Meeting House, Church Street (off London Street) 8 p.m. Correspondence: Phillip Lund, 160 Castle Hill, Reading.

SURREY ANARCHISTS are invited to meetings on the first Thursday of every month at Chris Torrance's (63 North Street, Carshalton, Surrey—please ring three times). Meetings 7.30 p.m.

SOUTHALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Roger Sandell, 58 Burns Avenue, Southall, Middlesex.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Mr. Karl Taylor, 98 Clova Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7. Meetings on Wednesdays.

PROPOSED GROUPS

CORNWALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Interested? Please write Derek Toman, 46 Weeth Lane, Camborne, Cornwall.

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY GROUP. Anyone interested please contact Bill Jamieson, c/o Students' Union, Oxford Road, Manchester.

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Projected formation of group contact Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex or Miss Jean McLean, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt Park, Middlesex.

LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E. Have baby. Can't travel. Seek sympathisers/comrades in area. Mike and Alison Malet, 61 Granville Park, S.E.13.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP TWO. Anyone interested contact Joe Embleton, 11 Baliol Street, Glasgow.

ABROAD

NEW ZEALAND. Auckland Anarchist Group. Public Meetings every Sunday in Myers Park at 2 p.m.

SPAIN

THE FOLLOWING was printed in the *Daily Telegraph* (18.11.65):
MADRID, Wednesday.

An agreement which could lead to the creation of a single trade union for all Spanish workers has been signed in Madrid by officials of state unions and former leaders of the illegal anarchist National Confederation of Labour.

The new union would replace 24 official trade unions and all Spanish workers would have to belong to it. The agreement also declares workers' rights to strike.

We have received the following comment from the Relations Commission of the Nucleus of the CNT exiled in Great Britain:

Knowing that a group of men who belonged to the CNT have formed a 'pact of living together' with representatives of the Franquist Unions of Spain, we declare:—

1. That the CNT, Syndicalist Organization of anarchist inspiration, defender by principle of the interests of the exploited classes, and also by principle against the interests of Capitalism and the State in all its manifestations, cannot accept in any way the irresponsibility that 'pact' shows.

2. That the CNT fought against Spanish Fascism and its allies during the period of the Spanish Civil War, sacrificing thousands of its militants to prevent that the Franquist tyranny or any other one should triumph in Spain.

3. That ethically; men of the CNT, in their quality as such, cannot reach a shameful agreement with the representatives of Fascism without betraying themselves and also betraying all those who Fascism has sacrificed in battlefields, concentration camps, forced labour, police headquarters and prisons, where many of these still are punished for the crime of fighting for the freedom of the Spanish people.

4. That, those who, saying they belong to the CNT and to the 26 years of tyranny, make treaties with it, must make them rejecting their past, remaining immediately disqualified with the serious charge that 'making a pact with the

enemy' is an attack on personal integrity and an act of treason.

5. That the CNT can only be identified as the genuine expression of the group of men that form it, and that nobody has the right to consider himself its representative unless it is a result normally verified through its ballots, where directly or indirectly all its members can see themselves represented, have themselves heard and establish resolutions of a collective character in a responsible way. The contrary is defeatist blackmail which cannot be ignored.

The Nucleus of the CNT exiled in Great Britain feels pity for the weakness of those our comrades of yesterday, and condemns their infantile diversionist attitude giving in to the bureaucracy of the Vertical Syndicates and the Franco regime, joining those who have inflicted so much harm on the CNT, the Libertarian Movement and anti-fascism in general.

We are pleased that our comrades in Spain have reacted against that disgraceful, premeditated and criminal manoeuvre, which will be equally denounced by every worker who is a victim of the abominable regime which tyrannizes them.

Fascism, represented by Franco, promoter of the bloody Civil War endorsed with 26 long years of scorn, humiliations and murder en masse, tries to find a way out from its perfidy; for it, it wants to use some names without thinking that those same names would be sacrificed immediately to the moloch of their own discredit.

Despite the connivance and the confabulations, that great tragedy, the river of blood which separates the CNT from the Franco regime, is an insurmountable obstacle over which it is not possible to 'build bridges' without falling into perjury. Fascism is a symbol of high treason because it attacks the social dignity of people; those who intrigue with Fascism can only reap the curses of the workers, among which the exiled members of the CNT in Great Britain, find themselves.

THE RELATIONS COMMISSION.
Secretary: A. Ruiz, 84 Ilex Road, N.W.10.

Treasurer: A. Ordoñez, 15 Barlby Road, W.10.

Propaganda: M. Benedicto, 31 Minster Road, N.W.2.

London, November, 1965.

Plenty of Gas from Men in Power

Continued from page 1

One's thoughts turn to the solution of a 'pirate' bus-service which, of course, would mean somebody sinking his capital into the venture, and then contravening regulations which Parliament would bring in to force to stamp the 'pirate' out. As Anarchists we wouldn't give whole-hearted approval to such a venture, naturally, but how can we say we differ all that much from 'Iron-Curtain' countries when transport, etc., is a monopoly and the people have no choice, just as Russia is famous for the one-party system.

Finally the capitalist genius for mismanagement resulted in 250,000 workers

any rational body of men working for the good of all.

WINTER EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

On Wednesday, to show he meant 'business', Wilson called the leaders of the gas and electricity industries to 10 Downing Street, ostensibly to give them a 'dressing-down'. Since the errors were of an elementary kind, a visit to the headmaster's study was not amiss, except that Wilson can't trust his various ministers to carry out any task ranging from the simple to the complex where the mass-media are involved. All that emerged from this was Wilson's declared intention of setting up a 'Winter Emer-

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LORD ANNAN, provost of King's College, Cambridge, giving the Romanes Lecture, said that one reason for the disintegration of our traditional culture was the declining respect for Authority. He added, 'The diminished respect for authority brought about by the spread of egalitarianism; the multiplicity of choice and styles of life which greater affluence has made possible; the belief in the value of modernity and the expansion of curiosity and interest: these seem to me to be the main forces which have disintegrated the old cultural pattern'. As the sense of distance between the ruler and ruled had diminished, so had authority. If people no longer deferred to their rulers and betters, why should they accept their way of life and culture? Full employment, he said, brought with money, freedom—including freedom of choice, which was the second great change in our culture. Another reason for the break-up of the old culture was that the preoccupation with the present and future undermined the authority of the past. Although some forms of mass culture were vulgar,

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Finally the capitalist genius for mismanagement resulted in 250,000 workers idle in the Midlands. The car industry, which has never had a smooth passage for years now, was the worst hit; with the bosses of course, redundancy which is the next best thing to sackings.

Lastly the Electricity Board relied on the long-range weather forecast. One doesn't have to be a meteorologist to know that the weather is the most uncertain thing in this uncertain world; any six-year-old schoolboy knows winter runs roughly from November till March—though pig-headed Fred Lee and a few others have either not grasped that most elementary fact, or else they merely wish to think differently, because all power overhauling should have been finished by mid-October at the latest—or at least those would have been the plans of

any rational body of men working for the good of all.

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On Wednesday, to show he meant 'business', Wilson called the leaders of the gas and electricity industries to 10 Downing Street, ostensibly to give them a 'dressing-down'. Since the errors were of an elementary kind, a visit to the headmaster's study was not amiss, except that Wilson can't trust his various ministers to carry out any task ranging from the simple to the complex where the mass-media are involved. All that emerged from this was Wilson's declared intention of setting up a 'Winter Emergency Committee'—in other words more paper-work, cups of tea, and general beating about the bush. In fact the kind of 'gas' everybody could very well do without—it's not going to keep anybody warm when the next cold spell strikes; talk about bullshit baffling brains.

In Parliament the Tories saw the people's discomfort as a target for 'anti-Socialist' jibes and we had the usual sweet music of farmyard noises. MPs had found plenty to yarn about in the Rhodesia business, though in this case 'sanctions' are the sheerest hypocrisy since no Government in this island would be willing to impose sanctions on South Africa—in this case trade figures tell all. What bothered the Westminster clowns far more was Ken Tynan's use of a four-

letter word in a conversation with Mary McCarthy on transatlantic theatre on 'BBC 3'. The press made a meal of it and Auntie BBC herself rushed an apology out on Monday morning, though Tynan (who is labelled a 'fashionable progressive' by some people) was not using the word out of context, and since he moves in more or less the same enlightened circles as George Melly and Dave Cunliffe, who also want censorship abolished, it is correct to assume that all these men can't be wrong.

I for one don't care how many times Ken Tynan or anybody else says 'fuck' on television; Tynan doesn't believe in treating the viewing public as small children, though in the Commons debate many MPs wanted Tynan hung, drawn and quartered, which would be a far more appropriate action for these nincompoops who want to banish art and truth but do all they can to promote war, class and profits.

The week ended with the multiple bakers striking and revealing the weakness of Brown's incomes policy; while Charlie Clore won his bid to own Selfridges, and on the same day the umpteenth bank robbery of the year occurred. The only thing one can say about a greedy bastard like Clore is that in a free society he would be taught a salutary lesson—that of sharing with other people, though no sympathy need be extended to Cohen, who was outbitten, either, as the big business world resembles some aspects of the animal kingdom. Altogether then, a most illuminating week despite the shocking light which was only fit most of the time for two activities—funerals and postman's knock. It also showed up the disgraceful Wilson administration for what is is—and has shown people that Anarchy is a constructive proposition on the railways or anywhere else.

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RON PEARL.

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titillating and incited to violence, they were forms of pleasure and enriched life. They kept people, who would otherwise be far more brutal, in a state of equilibrium. The intelligentsia had lost their cultural authority, and many of them were in any case boors and philistines. The intellectual and the artist were today more specialised and were being seduced by the life of consumption. . . . The best that had been thought and read in the world could not be integrated with our lives, and with society, unless we understood the present. Understanding it was not always pleasant. . . .

IT WAS DISCLOSED by Eric Savareid in *Look* that the late Adlai Stevenson had told him that during the American election campaign peace approaches had been made by the FLN in Vietnam through U Thant for talks in Rangoon. This was initially denied by Mr. McNamara but ultimately it was admitted that it was turned down because of Hanoi's insistence on prior conditions. . . .

AMERICANS IN VIETNAM were ambushed in the foothills of the Chu Pong mountains. Both sides are reported to have suffered the heaviest losses of any single engagement. *The Guardian* reports: 'After the main clash the Americans in one place found three North Vietnamese wounded. One lay huddled underneath a tree, a smile on his face. "You won't smile any more," said one of the Americans, pumping bullets into his body. The other two met the same fate'. . . . WILLIAM BARKLEY of the *Daily Express* said, 'This is the bloodiest outrage I have ever known'. He was speaking of the use of the word 'fuck' on TV to describe the sexual act. Mr. Barkley goes on, 'In my castle, into which this muck sniggered to my fireside, my wife switched it off and said to my unmarried

daughter, "It's time you went to bed". Mr. Barkley concludes with a revealing anecdote, that the only time sexual acts were performed on the stage was when eunuchs staged orgies in Constantinople in 361. Julian the Apostate is reported to have attended the orgies in disguise and consequently fired the eunuchs. . . .

THE BBC APOLOGISED for the use of the word 'fuck' and Mr. Tynan said, 'Last Saturday, I took part in an unscripted discussion on BBC Television in the course of which I used an old English word in a completely neutral way to illustrate a serious point, just as I would have used it in similar conversation with any group of grown-up people. To have censored myself would, in my view have been an insult to the viewers' intelligence.' Four Labour MPs tabled a motion in Parliament, 'That this House considers that Honourable Members are usually ill-advised to pose as arbiters of public taste or protectors of private sexual morality and refuses its support to any attempt to deprive the BBC of its long-established responsibility of the content of its own programmes.' . . .

MRS. MARY WHITEHEAD representing the 'Clean-Up TV' campaign, speaking to a *Sunday Telegraph* interviewer said, 'I know of a 16-year-old girl watching a kitchen sink play on TV—she got so worked up . . . she flew right out, nobody could hold her, and gave herself to the first boy she saw' . . . and further, ' . . . and Alex Comfort on TV, in a religious discussion on a Sunday, saying "My idea of a chivalrous boy is one who takes contraceptives when he meets his girlfriend". Isn't that crazy? And children listening to this as if it's from an oracle. Chivalry? A boy of 16 went out after hearing that and caught syphilis. The doctor who treated him has signed on our Clean-Up TV.'

JON QUIXOTE.

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it over in the hope that they will toe the line. Resuming the hearing the judge made a 'concession'. The defendants could visit their wives at times other than regular visiting hours as long as they got written permission from the warden. This they were unable to accept.

His Lordship in his summing up inferred that there must have been collusion in their presenting their evidence as they were almost identical. (As they were complaining about the same thing, that they were forcibly separated from their families, it seems, to this layman, a silly statement to make even by a judge.) He rephrased his, now famous remark about 'Life being what it is'. 'Being separated from your wives and children you are no different from thousands of others.' There was no reason for them to be especially aggrieved. From the safety of his chair

their own country, yes.

He sent them to jail where they will remain to stay until they sign an undertaking to be good boys and not to visit their wives except at proper visiting hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

As we are going to press we hear that two more wives were served writs and will appear at Maidstone Court on Tuesday. This brings the total to eight wives being persecuted (prosecuted) by Kent County Council.

Roy Mills and Brian Lomas are in Brixton Jail where they can be visited. Evidently even the warders are disgusted by this affair. The tipstaff himself refused to take them in a Black Maria to Brixton Jail saying: 'These men are not criminals'. He took them in a taxi instead and paid the fare.

The latest development is the victimisation of one of the husbands. He works as security guard for the Metal Box Company, Strood, Kent. He was told by the chief security officer that because of the case he was given a fortnight's

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In Contempt of Humanity

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November 4, Brian Lomas and Roy Mills told Justice Lawton that they wished to rescind the undertaking. He told them to think over the consequences and fixed a hearing for November 19. We reported this in *FREEDOM* (13.11.65). Since then the two husbands, Roy Mills and Brian Lomas, were committed to Brixton Jail. They withdrew their undertakings not to visit their wives. Mr. Justice Lawton gave both time to think

letter word in a conversation with Mary McCarthy on transatlantic theatre on 'BBC 3'. The press made a meal of it and Auntie BBC herself rushed an apology out on Monday morning, though Tynan (who is labelled a 'fashionable progressive' by some people) was not using the word out of context, and since he moves in more or less the same enlightened circles as George Melly and Dave Cunliffe, who also want censorship abolished, it is correct to assume that all these men can't be wrong.

I for one don't care how many times Ken Tynan or anybody else says 'fuck' on television; Tynan doesn't believe in treating the viewing public as small children, though in the Commons debate many MPs wanted Tynan hung, drawn and quartered, which would be a far more appropriate action for these nincompoops who want to banish art and truth but do all they can to promote war, class and profits.

The week ended with the multiple bakers striking and revealing the weakness of Brown's incomes policy; while Charlie Clore won his bid to own Selfridges, and on the same day the umpteenth bank robbery of the year occurred. The only thing one can say about a greedy bastard like Clore is that in a free society he would be taught a salutary lesson—that of sharing with other people, though no sympathy need be extended to Cohen, who was outbitten, either, as the big business world resembles some aspects of the animal kingdom. Altogether then, a most illuminating week despite the shocking light which was only fit most of the time for two activities—funerals and postman's knock. It also showed up the disgraceful Wilson administration for what it is—and has shown people that Anarchy is a constructive proposition on the railways or anywhere else.

RON PEARL.

it over in the hope that they will toe the line. Resuming the hearing the judge made a 'concession'. The defendants could visit their wives at times other than regular visiting hours as long as they got written permission from the warden. This they were unable to accept.

His Lordship in his summing up inferred that there must have been collusion in their presenting their evidence as they were almost identical. (As they were complaining about the same thing, that they were forcibly separated from their families, it seems, to this layman, a silly statement to make even by a judge.) He rephrased his, now famous remark about 'Life being what it is'. 'Being separated from your wives and children you are no different from thousands of others.' There was no reason for them to be especially aggrieved. From the safety of his chair he also said that Roy Mills and Brian Lomas told a pack of lies and that they were strangers to the truth. Strangers in

Violence in Art

Dear Comrades,

JON QUIXOTE quotes the author of *Saved* (currently at the Royal Court). On the wall of the theatre is a further comment by Edward Bond which concludes, ' . . . violence is so common, and the means of violence so colossal . . . For these reasons violence and frustrated sex are important subjects for the dramatist.'

I cannot differ more strenuously with these sentiments; for by them we have seen the disastrous effects for better than half a century in all the arts. (It's curious that the Theatre of Cruelty considers itself something brand new.) If the reality of violence cannot infiltrate the inadequate human imagination, how can violence—not in art, but to art, do more? What can Op 'Art' or Beatnik 'poetry' or magnetic tape 'music' accomplish save violence to the principles of Vermeer and Tom O'Bedlam and Mozart and to the aesthetic and human sensibilities of ourselves?

To combat the waste and destruction in the world, one requires more, not less, emphasis in all the arts on the things of this world that we care for, that matter in the condition we used to recognize as human. Artists are obliged to celebrate the virtues of being human and not to present the amorality of inhumanity. The former is admittedly more difficult; but when—'til now—was 'art' easy?

Consequently, I continue to believe that one love lyric by cummings is a greater

their own country, yes.

He sent them to jail where they will remain to stay until they sign an undertaking to be good boys and not to visit their wives except at proper visiting hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

As we are going to press we hear that two more wives were served writs and will appear at Maidstone Court on Tuesday. This brings the total to eight wives being persecuted (prosecuted) by Kent County Council.

Roy Mills and Brian Lomas are in Brixton Jail where they can be visited. Evidently even the warders are disgusted by this affair. The tipstaff himself refused to take them in a Black Maria to Brixton Jail saying: 'These men are not criminals'. He took them in a taxi instead and paid the fare.

The latest development is the victimisation of one of the husbands. He works as security guard for the Metal Box Company, Strood, Kent. He was told by the chief security officer that because of the case he was given a fortnight's notice. This is victimisation and should result in a strong protest. This man must not lose his job.

R.

LETTER

force towards our understanding and preservation than a thousand buckets of Pollack's paint, or reels of anti-musical tapes or such plays as *Saved*; and further, that any piece of anti-art condoned, makes our situation that much more precarious.

London, S.W.1

DACHINE RAINER.

PRESS FUND

WEEK 46, NOVEMBER 20, 1965:

Expenses:	26 weeks at £70:	
	20 weeks at £80:	£3420
Income:	Sales and Subs.:	£2569
DEFICIT:		£851

Harlow: F.B. 4/-; Reading: B. & A.T. 10/-; Bromley: D.G. 8/-; High Wycombe: J.G. 9/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Trinidad: V.R. 5/-; Auckland: Anarchist Group 5/-; London, N.7: P.C. 14/-; Manchester: M.F. 4/-; London, N.W.11: £3 4s.; St. Austell: A.J. 5/-; Holland, U.S.A.: A.L. 4/5; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; London, N.W.3: A.N. 1/9; Deal: O.R. £2 18s.; London, W.C.1: C.B. £2 18s.; Richmond: P.O. 10/6; Penzance: J.G. 14/-; Thornton Heath: D.J. 9/-.

TOTAL: £14 8 8
Previously Acknowledged: £866 4 10

1965 Total to Date: £880 13 6

*Denotes Regular Contributors.
Gift of Books: Edgware: M.K.

Murder Complete

THE EXTEL ASSASSINATION is complete, all that remains are the formal funeral rites and the arguments over the will.

The Natsopa Chapel managed to negotiate a promise from the Extel management to re-engage nine redundant staff, out of 23 in the racing and other departments. In return for this doubtful honour, the members re-engaged will take with them their severance pay, but will have to take a wage cut, rejoin the superannuation fund on new terms, and pay increased contributions to this private fund.

Minor improvements in severance payments, including an additional one month's wages and all those with part of a year's service will now receive a percentage increase for each month of service, e.g., one month 1/12th and so on.

The taking on of the nine redundant staff will be strictly on a seniority basis. Certain jobs have also been ear-marked for ex-Extel members at the Press Association. The PA is known as the 'work house of Fleet Street', it is rather ironical that some of the sacked Extel members may wind up there.

One of the prominent issues raised throughout this ghastly affair was the question of monopoly. The issue was raised at the Westminster gas works by Mr. Alan Williams (L, Swansea W) who asked Mr. Douglas Jay, president of the Board of Trade, whether he had completed his further inquiries about the closure of the Exchange Telegraph's Home and Parliamentary News services.

Mr. Jay said in a written reply: 'I have made careful inquiries as a result of which it is clear that the closure of these services was unavoidable for economic reasons. I am satisfied that the alternative news gathering services which are available are adequate to protect the public from any possible detriment.'

The closure of the Extel Parliamentary and Home News means an utter and complete defeat for the printing unions. The P & KTF was able to do exactly nothing to prevent the closure. Mr. Granville Eastwood, general secretary of the P & KTF, stated on Thursday evening (18.11.65) that the P & KTF was disappointed with Mr. Jay's attitude but felt that in the circum-

stances there was nothing more the unions could do.

The question now posed is when do printworkers cry halt to these closures? Surely the answer must be now. The important part of Mr. Eastwood's statement was: 'There was nothing more the unions could do'. In which case rank and file printworkers will have to do something. This will not be the last closure, it appears that the *Sun* only exists on the flick of a coin.

To their credit the workers at Extel formed a rank and file Defence Committee, but they failed to rouse the consciousness of the rest of Fleet Street. Why? Because the emphasis, laid by the various union leaders concerned, was on redundancy payments and alternative jobs. Sure, all the formalities were gone through, but it was defensive not attack. Therefore, as rank and file printworkers let us say, we have learned our lesson the hard way, for the future the rank and file must organise on a chapel to chapel basis. As was said before, 'Them now, us later'.

SOLIDARITY PAYS DIVIDENDS

THREE WEEKS ago 500 workers struck at Qualcast, Wolverhampton, because they believed that one of their members was being victimised. He attempted to organise trade unionism at the Swan Garden Foundry. The management claim that he had threatened the foreman twice. Mr. Fear, the member concerned, claims that he can bring six or seven witnesses to say that he only turned his back.

The majority of the workers concerned are Sikh, Indian, Pakistani and West Indian. The T & GWU first tried to get the workers to go back on the basis of a full investigation, this was rejected out of hand. The next offer was, return to work and the suspension of Mr. Fear pending full investigation. This plea by the union was again rejected by the workers on the basis that if it was good enough for Mr. Fear to be suspended then the foreman should also be suspended. After many hours of discussion between union and management, and discussions between the strikers themselves the foreman agreed to be 'suspended voluntarily' while the charges were investigated. On this basis the men agreed to return to work.

Obviously, Mr. Fear had put himself in bad with the management

by being very active in recruiting members to the union. He had also recently been elected Chairman of the newly formed Qualcast Branch. The immigrant and British workers are to be congratulated on their solidarity in opposition to the initial joint union/management return-to-work formula.

OPPOSITION TO DEVLIN GROWS

EFFORTS TO CO-ORDINATE rank and file opposition to the Devlin Report were stepped up by a mass meeting of dockers at Bristol. The meeting was called by the recently formed Bristol Liaison Committee. Two main points arose from the meeting; one, urging dockers to play a more active part in T & GWU Branch affairs, and two, strong opposition to break-away unionism. This latter point was aimed at the growing National Union of Portworkers. It is understood that Tim O'Leary, T & GWU National docks officer, attended the meeting.

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BILL CHRISTOPHER.

For W

NOVEMBER 27

TRAIN

LAST WEEK I was being made on strike. There has a lot of criticism levelled at this of course because of attacks, for shop stewards as scapegoats to occur.

The *Daily Mirror* concerning stewards, (them) do a thankless job there would be disputes, more union a tiny minority are Shop stewards simply because of the fact focal point. That's being done. It is that the justice or in time and "condition" taneous impact.

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Contact Column

Catholic Libertarians. Projected forma-

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More recently, year, week-end co Balham College o in a modern Brita in the Transport Union. The sylla

Contact Column

Catholic Libertarians. Projected formation of group. Anyone interested please contact Brian McGrath, 27 Arundel Gardens, London, W.11.

Visitors Needed. Peggy Smith (London Committee 100) is ill in Hampstead General Hospital. Visiting hours 6.30-8 p.m.

Film Club. North London. Next performance December 4, 4 p.m. Buster Keaton 'The General' and 'On the Twelfth Day'. Details 104 Crouch Hill, London, N.8.

Individualist Anarchists. Second Sunday of month at 10 Churton Street, S.W.1 (off Vauxhall Bridge Road), 8 p.m.

Accommodation (London). Man wants temporary accommodation. Working near St. Paul's. Box 16.

Accommodation. Anarchist couple with little daughter are seeking accommodation anywhere in London/South England also in return for housework, gardening, etc. Fauser, 242 Amesbury Avenue, Streatham, S.W.2.

Study Group. Blue Star Movement. Effective speaking, self-expression, creative communication. All welcome. Silver donation. 7.0-9.30 p.m. Mondays, November 1, 15, 22, 29 at 13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W.2.

New Poster

War	Want
Waste	Why?

Politics!

34d. each plus postage. Orders to Bill Sticker, c/o 17a Maxwell Road, London, S.W.6.

New Zealand Federation of Anarchists. First Annual Congress, December 26 to January 6. Enquiries Box 5455, Auckland CI, NZ.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

PAINTERS' STRIKE WIMPEY EUSTON CENTRE

THE PAINTERS on the above site, members of the ASPD, are at present in dispute with Jenner Bros. of Ilford.

There has been a long history of difficulties over the payment of bonus, as the painters were claiming priority with other trades in accordance with trade union policy. In response to this demand the firm placed the men on a 41-hour week, considerably reducing their earnings.

In the middle of these negotiations the firm attempted to transfer two men off the site, although there was plenty of work. The men claimed that the employers were misusing the transfer rule in the Working Rule agreement to victimise militant trade unionists and break up organisation. The two concerned refused the transfer and were dismissed. The remainder of the painters struck work in their support.

A Disputes Commission was convened and instructed the firm to reinstate the sacked men but allowed them the right of transfer for a period not exceeding two weeks. The men agreed to accept the commission's findings after they had been promised 1s. 3d. per hour bonus and work until February.

The Union organiser attempted to negotiate the target bonus issue but the firm refused to advance on their previous offers. These were once again unanimously rejected by the men. The management then proceeded to go behind

the backs of the organiser, ticket steward and Federation Steward and to negotiate individual bonus with some of the men in violation of all trade union practice.

Faced with these provocations the men decided to strike again.

The transferred men were sacked, in their absence, without reason, and their cards sent on by post.

The strike now proceeds for the reinstatement of the sacked men, and the establishment of decent wages and working conditions for painters on the job.

The London Area Committee of the ASPD have recommended to the Executive Council that the strike be made official.

This dispute re-emphasises the danger of sub-contracting firms on organised sites where they refuse to give their workers pay and conditions in line with those employed by the main contractor. The strikers consider this part of the offensive by sub-contract employers against trade unionism, which was started on the Turriffs Barbican site, and also that the employers are taking advantage of the Government's incomes policy to keep down wages and bonus earnings.

We appeal to all trade unionists to support us in this fight. Financial support would be most welcome. All monies acknowledged.

D. HEHIR,

Sec./Treas. Strike Fund.

75 Blomfield Road, Paddington, W.9

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BILL CHRISTOPHER.

freedom

For Workers' Control

NOVEMBER 27 1965 Vol. 26 No. 37

TRAINING SHOP STEWARDS

LAST WEEK I wrote about the attacks being made on the workers' right to strike. There has also been a great deal of criticism levelled at shop stewards, this of course being linked to these attacks, for shop stewards are often used as scapegoats to explain why strikes occur.

The *Daily Mirror* recently said, concerning stewards, 'The vast majority of (them) do a thankless job well. Without them there would be more industrial disputes, more unnecessary strife. Only a tiny minority are obstructive wreckers. Shop stewards simply reflect the significance of the factory floor—industry's focal point. That's where the work is being done. It is there—on that spot—that the justice or injustice of pay, overtime and "conditions" have their instantaneous impact.'

What the *Mirror* doesn't like, if it is honest, is the independence and strength which are often built up through the shop stewards and the men on the shop floor. The *Daily Mirror* wants stewards 'to be given a higher status by both union and Managements'. In other words, it wants to see the break up of the strength of shop floor organisation.

The shop steward is elected by the rank and file union members to do a certain job for them. He is their representative and carries out their wishes. If he does not, then he should be recalled and another elected. A steward can and does push certain issues, but when a final conflict arises with the management, then he must have the support of the men. So really a shop steward can only be as good as the men he represents and can only do as much as the men will let him.

NOT SOMETHING IMPOSED

Dissatisfaction with long, drawn out union-management procedure has made the shop stewards committee a vital organisation through which increases in wages, better conditions and vital issues of job control are won. Strength of job organisation varies not only in different factories, but also from one year to another. But the important thing is that whatever the strength of that organisation, it is of the rank and file

of management, strikes, redundancy and industrial training.

FREE TRIPS ABROAD

These are just some examples where managements, unions and the State have got together in an effort to bring about collaboration between workers and managements. The courses are numerous, taking different forms, from lectures given by 'industrial relations experts' at union week-end schools to college courses with everything paid for by the management, even down to trips abroad to see the management-worker relations in other countries.

The National Union of Vehicle Builders, however, has another approach. They prefer to discipline shop stewards rather than train them. A number, who have 'disobeyed union instructions', have been fined. This action does not depart from union rules, for provision has always been there. However, in the Midland areas, the union has made a rule that no member shall become a steward unless he has worked at the factory for at least one year. It also wants to incorporate shop stewards more closely in the union structure, an idea which came from the Ministry of Labour's evidence before the Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations.

Now is it likely that all this education is going to help the stewards to do their job any better, and if they become an integral part of the unions, then they will only be voices of that union and cease to represent the rank and file. Strikes come about because there is a definite conflict between workers and management. They are not about misunderstandings which 'industrial relations experts' from universities can iron out. These courses now being operated are aimed at reconciling shop stewards to the capitalist system. They aim at smoothing over the conflicts that arise when a minority controls the means of production, while the majority earn a living by selling their labour.

P.T.

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The strike now proceeds for the reinstatement of the sacked men, and the establishment of decent wages and working conditions for painters on the job.

The London Area Committee of the ASPD have recommended to the Executive Council that the strike be made official.

This dispute re-emphasises the danger of sub-contracting firms on organised sites where they refuse to give their workers pay and conditions in line with those employed by the main contractor. The strikers consider this part of the offensive by sub-contract employers against trade unionism, which was started on the Turriffs Barbican site, and also that the employers are taking advantage of the Government's incomes policy to keep down wages and bonus earnings.

We appeal to all trade unionists to support us in this fight. Financial support would be most welcome. All monies acknowledged.

D. HEHIR,

Sec./Treas. Strike Fund.

75 Blomfield Road, Paddington, W.9

Shop stewards simply reflect the significance of the factory floor—industry's focal point. That's where the work is being done. It is there—on that spot—that the justice or injustice of pay, overtime and "conditions" have their instantaneous impact.

What the *Mirror* doesn't like, if it is honest, is the independence and strength which are often built up through the shop stewards and the men on the shop floor. The *Daily Mirror* wants stewards 'to be given a higher status by both union and Managements'. In other words, it wants to see the break up of the strength of shop floor organisation.

The shop steward is elected by the rank and file union members to do a certain job for them. He is their representative and carries out their wishes. If he does not, then he should be recalled and another elected. A steward can and does push certain issues, but when a final conflict arises with the management, then he must have the support of the men. So really a shop steward can only be as good as the men he represents and can only do as much as the men will let him.

NOT SOMETHING IMPOSED

Dissatisfaction with long, drawn out union-management procedure has made the shop stewards committee a vital organisation through which increases in wages, better conditions and vital issues of job control are won. Strength of job organisation varies not only in different factories, but also from one year to another. But the important thing is that whatever the strength of that organisation, it is of the rank and file and not something imposed on them.

Now the employers, the Government and trade union bureaucrats would like to see some changes here. Between them they have all sorts of schemes up their sleeves. Schools for shop stewards is one of these. Back in 1961, the Minister of Labour, the car manufacturers and union leaders agreed to institute courses for shop stewards and shop floor supervisors. One union leader said at the time, 'There is a lot of misunderstanding about it. The employers offered to co-operate with us in running courses.— They are prepared to give the stewards time off, with pay, to attend'.

'SUPPORTED BY LOCAL FIRMS'

As far as I know, this particular scheme never went ahead, but others, such as day release and residential week-end courses at universities and technical colleges, have been put into operation. Last year, a member of the staff of Thurrock Technical College, wrote in an issue of the journal of the British Institute of Management concerning these courses and said they 'have been supported by local firms including Mobil Oil, Teleflex Products, London & Thames Haven Oil Wharves, Grays Co-operative and Esso. Part of the syllabus includes a course called "Making Money Work". Under this section of the course we have lectures entitled "Definition of productivity profits and their importance, the demands on company profits, shares and dividends".'

More recently, in September of this year, week-end courses were started at Balham College on 'industrial relations in a modern Britain', for shop stewards in the Transport and General Workers' Union. The syllabus includes the role

abroad to see the management-worker relations in other countries.

The National Union of Vehicle Builders, however, has another approach. They prefer to discipline shop stewards rather than train them. A number, who have 'disobeyed union instructions', have been fined. This action does not depart from union rules, for provision has always been there. However, in the Midland areas, the union has made a rule that no member shall become a steward unless he has worked at the factory for at least one year. It also wants to incorporate shop stewards more closely in the union structure, an idea which came from the Ministry of Labour's evidence before the Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations.

Now is it likely that all this education is going to help the stewards to do their job any better, and if they become an integral part of the unions, then they will only be voices of that union and cease to represent the rank and file. Strikes come about because there is a definite conflict between workers and management. They are not about misunderstandings which 'industrial relations experts' from universities can iron out. These courses now being operated are aimed at reconciling shop stewards to the capitalist system. They aim at smoothing over the conflicts that arise when a minority controls the means of production, while the majority earn a living by selling their labour.

P.T.

SOLIDARITY NEEDED

WE ARE PRINTING the painters' Strike Appeal for a number of reasons. Firstly, I think they should be supported financially for they have been out on the stones for nearly three weeks and, even though the strike is likely to get official union support, strike pay is very small anyway, and support in the future does not pay the rent and buy food now.

Financial support is one way of showing solidarity, but what about something more than this from other workers on the Euston Centre. So far, up until the time of writing, they have not shown any support, other than a collection for those on strike. It is not because there is a lack of job organisation, for this is not true, as they came out in support of the lads on strike at Turriffs.

What do these men and their Works Committee think they are doing, crossing a picket line each day? They should be outside the gates with the painters. It comes hard to write this, but I think first of all we must be honest. I just don't know what the Federation Steward at the Euston Centre is doing. I don't agree with his political affiliation to the Communist Party, but he has always been a good trade unionist on jobs and done his best to get higher wages and good conditions. Isn't it about time these painters got support from the other workers on the job? I'm certain if this had been given in the first place, the dispute would have been over long ago. So what about it, brothers?

P.T.